

context
M E D I A

Copy for TSK

To: Mike Mello
From: Beau Friedlander
Date: February 1, 1999

Ted: I couldn't find my
copy w/ notes, so here's a
print-out. (hurried).

—There is a long round, pole that protrudes from what I believe to be the back of the cabin (the same end as the stove pipe). It is at ^{an} angle of approximately 45 degrees and extends perhaps 5-7 feet from the foundation piles. It does not appear to be connected to the cabin.

Waits's allegation about a waste pipe that ran from the cabin to the garden is doubtless false based on this photograph. But editors may run this photograph with any rebuttal of the fact in order to ridicule the rebuttal. I've seen photos that show no holes in cabin. (by Barnes, R.)
There is the chance that the editors of the Independent and Montana Magazine will use Ted's letter re. the hoax for publicity. !

Sallinger should be handled with kid gloves. He has only his own interest in mind. Any instruction regarding sites that would cast doubt on Waits's story should be given to more trustworthy sources, such as Ulveman, Jensen, et al. Let Sallinger begin the discussion. Let someone else elaborate. Let someone else elaborate on that. Waits book will get more exposure because of this. It would not get exposure were there to be no discussion. This is something to bear in mind always.

Anything written for the Montana audience will be picked up by the national press – guaranteed. not yet ! (im surprised)

Mike, you have information to which I have not been audience. This should also be related. I think there may be things that will strike Ted as relevant, which you may not (remember the aluminum pipe/pole example) by virtue of the fact that you read Ws book from the point of view of a lawyer and author.

I think the conversation should be contained to these issues. 60 MINUTES is an entirely different matter. Even if he brings it up, I'd stay with the Waits issue because there is an urgent need to make sure Ted gets what he wants accomplished w/o getting burned en route.

↑ This is because Mello may be over eager, maybe not. I thought a caveat would be wise.